

Michael,

We appreciate you providing us with the opportunity to comment. The following can be attributed to an ArcelorMittal spokesperson:

- ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor continues daily monitoring and reporting to the regulatory agencies which has demonstrated compliance with our permit requirements since August 17th, including cyanide and ammonia.
- ArcelorMittal continues to work with federal and state authorities including USEPA, IDEM, IDNR and others to address the issues and concerns arising out of the events that resulted in the release.
- The Company is unable to comment on the Notice of Intent to File a Citizen Suit and continues to be focused on compliance and reassuring our community stakeholders that we are hearing and taking their concerns very seriously.

**In addition, please note the following statement from Sept 13, 2019 which may provide some relevant information for your article.**

- As the company previously stated, ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor experienced a loss of power at a pump station for the blast furnace process water recycle system on August 11, 2019, which is believed to have caused the exceedances of Ammonia-N and cyanide at Outfalls 001 and 011 which are located in Burns Ditch.
- Based on the history of operating the Blast Furnace Cold Water Pumping Station (BFCWPS or Station), ArcelorMittal personnel did not believe that the failures that occurred at the Station on August 11, 2019 would lead to concerns over CN. The first water permit sampling date, which is a 24 hour composite sample, for cyanide that occurred after August 11 was on August 13. The sample was sent to the certified testing lab for analysis on August 14. The lab data was used to calculate the quantity of cyanide for reporting purposes on the morning of the 15th. Those results alerted ArcelorMittal that there was a cyanide concern. Those results were verbally communicated to IDEM the morning of the 15th and a required written notification was sent to the Agency that same day. A copy of that report can be found [here](#). This notice to IDEM did not indicate that ArcelorMittal was aware of the cyanide exceedances since the event on Sunday nor that the power failure may have resulted in cyanide exceedances. ArcelorMittal publicly acknowledged the concern on August 15. The cause of the release was disclosed in a statement on Friday, August 16.
- Since August 16, 2019, ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor has continued daily sampling for all of the permitted constituents, including CN and Ammonia. The raw data and the lab analysis are communicated to IDEM, Coast Guard and Natural Park Service personnel daily. The sampling demonstrates full compliance with the facility's NPDES permit discharge limits since August 17. We continue to focus on maintaining compliance.
- The Unified Command of regulatory agencies convened for this incident, established a threshold concentration of 0.200 mg/L for free cyanide for human health to assess environmental monitoring data for ambient water in the East Branch of the Little Calumet River and Lake Michigan Beaches. That value is US EPA's maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water.
- Water monitoring by ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor and the agencies indicate that free cyanide concentrations in the East Branch of the Little Calumet River or at Lake Michigan Beaches did not come close to approaching the threshold concentration value.
- This was a unique and unfortunate event which the company continues to investigate in coordination with regulatory authorities to determine the root cause and implement measures to prevent future occurrences.
- While the company is unable to comment on potential litigation, we remain focused on maintaining compliance and understanding the root cause so that we can implement appropriate measures to prevent future occurrences.